

reality, another piece of legislation costing more than \$1 trillion, that builds more debt than it builds bridges or roads.

When the bill passed the House, inflation was already on the rise, and gas prices had increased 50 percent over the prior year. Instead of addressing these issues before they got out of hand, Democrats have used their political capital in an attempt to reshape the very fabric of our society and take another giant leap toward the United States becoming another socialist country. As a consequence, the cost of everything has continued to rise while inflation rages on with reckless abandon and no end in sight.

Unfortunately, the madness did not end there. Despite already passing two bills with price tags over a trillion dollars, President Biden and congressional Democrats saved the worst of all for last—their build back broke bill that was thankfully defeated in the Senate but would have added a staggering \$5 trillion in new spending.

In just 1 year, House Democrats passed legislation equating to almost \$10 trillion which, unbelievably, amounts to a full one-third of the current U.S. national debt. They acted like kids in a candy store with their parents' credit card. But in reality, their actions are even worse than that because in this case they are actually using their children's and grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's credit card, and even though they have more than maxed out the credit card, new purchases are never declined.

Economists warned of an impending recession as we got closer to reaching the debt limit last year. America's fiscal house was flooding, and the Democrats chose to raise the roof rather than stop the flooding. On a party-line vote, Democrats voted to impose the largest nominal increase in the debt cap in the history of our country, and in doing so, once again denied all reality that their out-of-control spending would directly result in inflation, the steep and cruel tax levied on all Americans.

You would think that after passing so many spending bills in the trillions of dollars that they would be able to pass a standard government funding bill, but you would be wrong. Congressional Democrats and President Biden have not achieved this once; in fact, we are already almost halfway through the current fiscal year and, in an ironic twist, are still operating under the spending priorities of President Donald Trump; that is, until the House votes on the Democratic appropriations bills tomorrow, which we have yet to read and will likely cost taxpayers additional trillions of dollars.

Trillions of dollars spent, and what do we have to show for it? Higher prices on everything, real wages for all Americans declining, and an economy dependent on government expenditures. We are getting exactly what President Biden and congressional

Democrats want: Socialism. These are not the ideals on which America was founded. Every step they take diminishes capitalism, the engine of our economy and the engine of our standard of living, and it also diminishes freedom, the engine of our national soul. But regrettably, that is President Biden's America.

The fact of the matter is that President Biden's administration will stop at nothing to satisfy their far-left base.

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SELLING AMERICA A BILL OF GOODS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the ability to address a few of my colleagues here on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I would note, though, here we are again, we are sitting here at the precipice of the government funding running out. And I hear all my colleagues talking about how great it is: We are going to come up with some great, big omnibus bill. And I am hearing that from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Nobody in America wants us to plus-up more spending irresponsibly.

Nobody in America wants us to say, Oh, let's pat ourselves on the back now. Because some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are saying, Well, you know what? It is time now to ban Russian oil.

It is not good enough to ban Russian oil if we are not going to open up American oil and gas. All we are going to do is provide more money to Venezuela, more money to Saudi, more money to Iran. But yet, that is being touted as a victory.

And some of my colleagues on this side of the aisle are saying, Okay, good. Oh, this is great. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they don't want any oil. They don't mind your gas being \$4, \$7, \$10 a gallon.

Don't get played. But my colleagues on this side of the aisle are about to get played, and everybody back home is saying: What are you going to do to stop vaccine mandates? Nothing. What are you going to do to secure the border?

And my colleagues on this side of the aisle are going to say, Oh, don't worry. We are going to give you more money for ICE, more money for Border Patrol. But you know what that does? It makes it worse, because you are funding the processing of people at our border, because that is all Border Patrol and ICE are doing.

But my colleagues on this side of the aisle are going to say, Oh, look at us. We did something for border security. It ain't true. It is going to make it worse. And anybody who has been to the border, anybody who talks to Border Patrol, anybody who talks to ICE, knows that is true.

We are not going to get a vaccine mandate, we are not going to get a secure border, and we are not going to get more oil and gas being produced in America.

And then we are going to say, Great, let's have a vote and send more lethal aid to Ukraine. And we are not even going to have a debate down here about what we are doing in funding Ukraine, with Putin rolling over Ukraine? All we are doing is backroom dealmaking, waiting for somebody to drop a bill on the floor of the House, and then come down and vote "yes" or "no."

That is a disgusting display by both sides of this body. We ought to have a full and open debate on the floor of the House about what we are doing in sending arms to Ukraine; how much we are spending; what it means for our involvement; what it means for NATO; what it means for stopping Putin.

And stop spending money we don't have. Stop funding tyranny. Stop forcing Americans to get a job or lose their job. Stop leaving the border wide open. And stop selling the American people a bill of goods. And I am looking directly at my party when I say that.

PUTIN'S WAR ATROCITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the murderous Putin's war on Ukraine is recognized worldwide as criminal.

I am grateful that America and our NATO allies have unified to support Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and the Ukrainian people. I have faith in the Russian people, who I have met on numerous visits across Russia, that they will reject Putin's war atrocities.

Russia is a nation of world-significant art, music, architecture, literature, and can change. And that is why I am introducing a bill to encourage Russian military defectors, true Russian patriots, with immediate refugee status in America with up to \$100,000 for Russian military equipment transferred to Ukraine. Putin betrays the troops to death for his purpose of oil, money, power.

Additionally, I will introduce a bill for a bust of President Volodymyr Zelensky to be placed in the U.S. Capitol, as is the bust of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Churchill was the wartime leader of World War II, and Volodymyr Zelensky is the wartime leader in Putin's war.

On Saturday, I was very grateful to be part of the Zoom address by President Zelensky to the U.S. Congress. And today, he is addressing the British Parliament.

In December, I visited Kyiv, and I was so inspired by the people of Ukraine. It is a modern, free-market democracy with extraordinary success for its citizens of eight-lane boulevards with modern SUVs.